

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: Recreation Programs

Program Components	1999 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2000 Budget Request	Change From 1999 (+/-)
Recreation Programs	515	18	0	533	+18
Total Requirements \$(000)	515	18	0	533	+18

AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 4601 - 4601-3	The Outdoor Recreation Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 4601-6a (h)	The Land and Water Conservation Act, as amended
40 U.S.C. 484 (o)	The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, as amended

OVERVIEW

Recreation Programs cover a range of planning, Federal coordination, and technical assistance activities. The principal activities are the Federal Lands to Parks Program, which assists State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal real property for public parks and recreation areas, and nationwide recreation information, statistics, and coordination.

APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- IIIb Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use.

Recreation Programs

FY 1999 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

Enacted: \$515,000

The Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP) places a priority on helping communities obtain Federal properties which have been declared surplus (that is, no longer needed by the Federal Government) for public parks and recreation use. In partnership with State and local agencies, the FLP results in new and expanded State and community parks, increased close-to-home recreation, and protected open space and important natural and cultural resources. A great variety of land may be available from any agency of the Federal Government, including military bases, U.S. Coast Guard stations, and Army Corps of Engineers water control projects. The land may be located in rural or urban areas, consist of open space, forests, wetlands, lakes, or shorelines; the land may contain existing historic and recreation facilities. In addition, communities may convert and restore seemingly nonrecreational property to meet community recreational needs.

The Federal Lands to Parks Program is the only means for a State or local agency to acquire surplus land for public recreation at no cost instead of paying fair market value. Once transferred, the land is dedicated for public recreational use in perpetuity for current and future generations without Federal ownership. As a result, the program helps create new State and local parks, provide public recreation services, conserve natural and historic resources, and contribute to community revitalization. In addition to benefiting communities, the Federal Lands to Parks program helps the

National Recreation and Preservation/Recreation Programs

Federal Government reduce its unneeded inventory of Federal land and facilities and management costs by transferring property out of Federal ownership.

For example, in fiscal year 1998, the Service transferred a 213-acre portion of Homestead Air Force Base to Miami-Dade County, Florida, for a new regional park. Local business people described the new park as "exactly the kind of quality-of-life factor that is essential to stimulating economic recovery and growth." A 109-acre transfer to Mesa County, Colorado, will provide improved public access to the Gunnison River, and to a network of nearby hiking and bicycling trails. The county proposes to co-manage the property with the Bureau of Land Management, which manages much of the surrounding area and other river access points.

The Park Service works with numerous partners and agencies to help convert Federal land and establish public parks and recreation areas; communicates with relevant State and local agencies that may be interested in available surplus property for park and recreation acquisition and use; assists interested communities to develop their applications; acts as broker between the applicant and the Federal disposing agency (typically the General Service Administration, or military departments); approves the community's application and recommends the property transfer, based on an assessment of the need for the property, capability of the applicant, suitability of the property for the intended use, and a plan for the proposed park use and/or development; and prepares the deed and conveys the property to a community with deed restrictions. Because recreational use does not have priority in Federal property disposal, the Service's role is important to help States and communities communicate their needs and compete among other potential interests for acquisition.

After transferring the property, the Park Service helps ensure continued public access to the properties for recreational use and protection of the properties' natural and cultural resources, through site visits, followup contacts, and technical assistance to communities.

The NPS has deeded more than 1,300 properties, totaling approximately 144,000 acres, to State and local governments for public recreational use since 1949. In fiscal year 1998, the Service deeded fourteen properties (745 acres) valued at over \$19.7 million. Also, the NPS received more than 90 requests for assistance including approximately 30,000 acres on 60 military bases being closed. The Service's assistance is needed throughout the Federal screening and disposal process, which may extend five to seven years in the case of military base closures. Federal Lands to Parks acres are counted as preserved when the deed is signed.

In addition to the Federal Lands to Parks Program, the Park Service works collaboratively with other Federal agencies, national nonprofit organizations and the private sector in identifying recreational needs and developing strategies to address them. This collaboration includes interagency and cooperative agreements, research, and studies. Specific examples are providing information on Department of Transportation trail and recreation funding, working collaboratively with United States Forest Service on the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, and monitoring recreation trends.

Performance Goals

Long-term Goal IIIb1	By September 30, 2002, conserve with NPS partnership assistance 1,580 additional miles of trails, 2,060 additional miles of protected river corridors, and 61,700 additional acres of parks and open space, from 1997 totals.
Annual Goal IIIb1	By September 30, 2000, conserve with NPS partnership assistance an additional 1,120 miles of trails, an additional 1,580 miles of protected river corridor, and an additional 47,700 acres of park and open space, from 1997 totals.
Long-term Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2002, 80% of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.

National Recreation and Preservation/Recreation Programs

Annual Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2000, 77% of States, communities, and nonprofit organizations served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.
Long-term Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2002, the 32,451 recreational properties, as of 1997, assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation.
Annual Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2000, document that there has been no net loss of recreation properties assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program.

Federal Lands to Parks Workload Factors	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Estimate	FY 2000 Estimate
Percent of communities served satisfied with Federal Lands-to-Parks assistance	*	75%	77%
Number of acres (number of properties) transferred for state and local parks and recreation	745 (14 properties)	**	**
* The methodology and survey instrument for determining satisfaction of communities served were developed in FY 1998 and are being reviewed by OMB; results of the first round of surveys should be available by March 1999. ** Subject to disposal schedule of other Federal land disposing agencies.			